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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/759,774

01/16/2004

Philip Barthram

063170.6682

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08/05/2011

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EXAMINER

BROPHY, MATTHEW J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2191

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/05/2011

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/759,774	Applicant(s) BARTHAM ET AL.	
	Examiner MATTHEW BROPHY	Art Unit 2191	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 5/20/2011.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,7-21,23,29-43,45,51-65,67,73-87 and 90-106 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,7-23,29-43,45,51-65,67,73-87 and 90-106 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/25/2011</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to the amendment filed 5/20/2011
2. Claims 1, 7-21, 23, 29-43, 45, 51-65, 67, 73-87, 90-106 are rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 7-13, 23, 29-35, 45, 51-57, 67, 73-79, and 90-99 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aronberg et al. (US Pat. #: 5,933,647), hereinafter "Aronberg" in view of Lin (US Patent 6,178,433) hereinafter Lin and further in view of U.S. PG Publication 2002/12936 Hellerstein et al hereinafter Hellerstein. Any citations of these rejections (by Aronberg) not found in this office action can be found in a previous office action.

As for claim 1, Aronberg discloses:

A method (Col. 11, Lines 1-3) for managing a plurality of computers, at least one of the plurality of computers associated with a user having a user characteristic, comprising:

displaying, to a network administrator, a user-object data structure comprising resource information identifying a plurality of network computers ...(Col 2, Ln 1-8, " The present

Art Unit: 2191

invention provides a sophisticated graphical condition expression builder to allow distributions based on any combination of several criteria, including user name, group membership, hard disk size, free disk space, and environment variables. Moreover, the present invention has the ability to vary an installation at distribution time based on any of the above criteria. WinInstall and Symantec do not.”)

receiving selection information (any combination of several criteria, Col. 2, lines 3-5, Col. 4, lines 62-67, and FIGs. 3-10) from a network administrator (the user at the administrator, Col. 4, lines 62-67 and Col. 2, lines 54-57), the selection information comprising a user characteristic associated with the selected user (user name, Col. 2, line 3 and FIGs. 6 and 9);

receiving management information (distribution control information, Col. 2, lines 54-57, Col. 2, line 66 to Col. 3, line 1 and Col. 3, lines 8-14) from the network administrator (the user at the administrator, Col. 4, lines 62-67 and Col. 2, lines 54-57);

selecting each of the plurality of networked computers that are used by the selected user. (which computer, Col. 3, lines 8-10) based on selection information (any combination of several criteria, Col. 2, lines 3-5, Col. 3, lines 8-14, Col. 4, lines 48-67, and FIGs. 3-10);

Art Unit: 2191

allowing the network administrator to modify the management information to resolve the one or more conflicts, if the one or more conflicts exist; **(Aronberg Col. 6, Ln 20-37 “As shown in FIG. 9, the condition builder feature allows user at the console to control what conditions a particular agent must meet to pull down the application from the file server. The dialog box 901 permits the user to add a condition to the job, or modify an existing condition. The selected criteria 902 which make up the condition are shown in boxed area 902. The connector selection 903 allows the user to connect up criteria in the condition. The test button 904 permits evaluation of the condition and displays the results. The parenthesize feature 905 allows the user to selectively group criteria within the condition. The delete button 906 permits deletion of criteria from a condition. The else feature 907 permits the user to link the entire condition with the previous condition. The operation features 908 permit the user to modify the selected criteria. The entry field and lookup button 909 is used to modify the selected criteria.”)** *[Here, where Aronberg adds new conditions to previous conditions in the condition builder, the administrator can use the condition builder to resolve conflicts in conditions as detected as described Hellerstein below].*

and modifying each of the target computers that are used by the selected user based on the management information after the one or more conflicts are resolved. (Col. 3, lines 8-14 and FIGs. 3-10).

Aronberg does not disclose:

...[computers] in an enterprise system that are used by a selected one of a plurality of users the plurality of enterprise computers representing all the enterprise computers in the enterprise system that are used by the selected user.

Identifying as target computers to receive a modification, all of the plurality of network computers in the enterprise system that are used by the selected user

However, these limitations are taught by Lin.

...[computers] in an enterprise system that are used by a selected one of a plurality of users the plurality of enterprise computers representing all the enterprise computers in the enterprise system that are used by the selected user. **(Lin Col. 3, Ln 50-67, “Once any necessary updates are made to central user preference database 2, server-side synchronization agent 6 identifies which local computer(s) 3 are to receive updated user preference information as a result of the service request (Step 130).**

Where, for example, the service request is a request from a particular local computer 3 for a download of the most-current user preference information, server-side synchronization agent 6 may transmit the appropriate information only to that local computer 3. On the other hand, where the service request necessitated an update to central user preference database 2, server-side

Art Unit: 2191

synchronization agent 6 preferably transmits the updated user preference information to all of the computers associated with the userid in the service request.”)

Identifying as target computers to receive a modification, all of the plurality of network computers in the enterprise system that are used by the selected user (**Lin Col. 3, Ln 50-67, “Once any necessary updates are made to central user preference database 2, server-side synchronization agent 6 identifies which local computer(s) 3 are to receive updated user preference information as a result of the service request (Step 130). Where, for example, the service request is a request from a particular local computer 3 for a download of the most-current user preference information, server-side synchronization agent 6 may transmit the appropriate information only to that local computer 3. On the other hand, where the service request necessitated an update to central user preference database 2, server-side synchronization agent 6 preferably transmits the updated user preference information to all of the computers associated with the userid in the service request.”)**

In addition, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Aronberg with the userid tracking features of Lin as Lin provides a “repository computer [that] maintains central user ...information

Art Unit: 2191

and transmits that information to a local computer” which provides portability of user information between computers of an enterprise system.

Aronberg further does not teach:

comparing the management information to existing scheduled policies to determine if one or more conflicts exist;

Hellerstein, however, teaches this limitation:

(¶73 “When a new policy dealing with the conditions under which a particular region can or cannot be considered as a target for software distribution is formulated, this process performs the steps by which such a policy is entered in to the policy repository. If, after obtaining a new policy definition (step 801), a conflict is detected with existing policies (step 802), the new policy is rejected (step 803). If not, the new policy is entered (step 804) into the policy repository. The process ends at block 805. Note that the criteria for rejection could be more complex, based on the nature of the enterprise where the software distribution is being implemented. This illustrative description does not address policy conflict resolution issues. Instead, it assumes that a process is in place to maintain the policy repository in a consistent state. Therefore, it is to be understood that any appropriate policy conflict resolution mechanism may be employed.”)

In addition, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Aronberg with the conflict identification of Hellerstein as Aronberg has a system that allows adding new conditions (i.e. policies) to

Art Unit: 2191

old conditions, and Hellerstein teaches a similar system of adding new deployment policies to old ones which includes a step to identify conflicts between the policies. It would be obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art further to resolve the conflicts identified by Hellerstein using the condition builder of Aronberg which allows the administrator to modify add and delete conditions because Hellerstein recognizes “any appropriate policy conflict resolution mechanism may be employed.”

As for claims 23, 45, and 67, the claims are rejected for the same reason as set forth in the rejection of claim 1.

As for claims 7, 29, 51, and 73, Aronberg discloses:

the user characteristic (user name, Col. 2, line 3 and FIGs. 6 and 9) is related to an employment function of the user (marketing group users, financial group users, engineering group users, Col. 5, lines 60-65).

As for claims 8, 30, 52, and 74, Aronberg discloses:

the user characteristic (user name, Col. 2, line 3 and FIGs. 6 and 9) is at least one of a user group and a geographic identifier (marketing group users, financial group users, engineering group users, Col. 5, lines 60-65).

As for claims 9, 31, 53, and 75, Aronberg discloses:

the selection information further includes a computer characteristic (User [machine id], FIG. 9, Col. 2, lines 3-7, and Col. 3, lines 8-14), and the computer characteristic is related to a function of at least one of the plurality of computers (which computer, Col. 3, lines 8-10).

As for claims 10, 32, 54, and 76, Aronberg discloses:

the selection information further includes a computer characteristic (User [machine id], FIG. 9, Col. 2, lines 3-7, and Col. 3, lines 8-14), and the computer characteristic is at least one of a group (group of workstations, Col. 1, lines 40-44), a geographic identifier, and configuration information (customized configuration, Col. 2, lines 52-57 and Col. 1, lines 40-44).

As for claims 11, 33, 55, and 77, Aronberg discloses:

modifying includes transmitting software to the at least one selected computer (which computer, Col. 3, lines 8-10) from a software database (the file server, Col. 3, lines 8-14 and Col. 6, lines 20-23), and installing the software on the at least one selected computer (Col. 3, lines 8-14).

As for claims 12, 34, 56, and 78, Aronberg discloses:

the management information (distribution control information, Col. 2, lines 54-57,

Art Unit: 2191

Col. 2, line 66 to Col. 3, line 1 and Col. 3, lines 8-14) includes a software identifier (the software, Col. 3, line 10 and FIG. 5) and an action (FIG. 5) to be performed on the at least one selected computer (which computer, Col. 3, lines 8-10).

As for claims 13, 35, 57, and 79, Aronberg discloses:

displaying the management information associated with the user (FIG. 3-6 and FIG. 9-10), wherein the management information includes at least one of the plurality of computers associated with the user (User [machine id], FIG. 9, Col. 2, lines 3-7, and Col. 3, lines 8-14), at least one installation (the software, Col. 3, line 10 and FIG. 5) associated with the user (user name, Col. 2, line 3 and FIGs. 6 and 9), and at least one task (FIG. 5) associated with the user (user name, Col. 2, line 3 and FIGs. 6 and 9);

As for claim 90, Aronberg discloses:

A method, comprising:

displaying, to a network administrator resource information identifying

a plurality of network computers...(FIGs. 7-10);

receiving selection information (any combination of several criteria, Col. 2, lines 3-5,

Col. 4, lines 62-67, and FIGs. 3-10) from the network administrator (the user at the

administrator, Col. 4, lines 62-67 and Col. 2, lines 54-57), the selection information

comprising a user characteristic associated with the user (user name, Col. 2, line 3 and

FIGs. 6 and 9);

receiving management information (distribution control information, Col. 2, lines 54-57, Col. 2, line 66 to Col. 3, line 1 and Col. 3, lines 8-14) from the network administrator (the user at the administrator, Col. 4, lines 62-67 and Col. 2, lines 54-57);

based on the selection information (any combination of several criteria, Col. 2, lines 3-5, Col. 3, lines 8-14, Col. 4, lines 48-67, and FIGs. 3-10), selecting each of a plurality of network computers ... (which computer, Col. 3, lines 8-14); and

allowing the network administrator to modify the management information to resolve the one or more conflicts, if the one or more conflicts exist; **(Aronberg Col. 6, Ln 20-37 “As shown in FIG. 9, the condition builder feature allows user at the console to control what conditions a particular agent must meet to pull down the application from the file server. The dialog box 901 permits the user to add a condition to the job, or modify an existing condition. The selected criteria 902 which make up the condition are shown in boxed area 902. The connector selection 903 allows the user to connect up criteria in the condition. The test button 904 permits evaluation of the condition and displays the results. The parenthesize feature 905 allows the user to selectively group criteria within the condition. The delete button 906 permits deletion of criteria from a condition. The else feature 907 permits the user to link the entire condition with the previous condition. The operation features 908 permit the user to modify the selected criteria. The entry**

Art Unit: 2191

field and lookup button 909 is used to modify the selected criteria.”) [Here, where Aronberg adds new conditions to previous conditions in the condition builder, the administrator can use the condition builder to resolve conflicts in conditions as detected as described Hellerstein below].

based on the selection information, modifying each of the plurality of network computers after the one or more conflicts are resolved (Col. 3, lines 8-14 and FIGs. 3-10).

Aronberg does not explicitly teach:

the plurality of enterprise computers representing all the enterprise computers in the enterprise system that are used by the selected user.

Identifying as target computers, each of the plurality of network computers that are used by the selected user;

[selecting and modifying each of] the plurality of network computers associated with the single user

However, these limitations are taught by Lin:

the plurality of enterprise computers representing all the enterprise computers in the enterprise system that are used by the selected user **(Lin Col. 3, Ln 50-67, “Once any necessary updates are made to central user preference database 2, server-side**

Art Unit: 2191

synchronization agent 6 identifies which local computer(s) 3 are to receive updated user preference information as a result of the service request (Step 130).

Where, for example, the service request is a request from a particular local computer 3 for a download of the most-current user preference information, server-side synchronization agent 6 may transmit the appropriate information only to that local computer 3. On the other hand, where the service request necessitated an update to central user preference database 2, server-side synchronization agent 6 preferably transmits the updated user preference information to all of the computers associated with the userid in the service request.”) *[Lin teaches the use of this system in a work environment over a business's network of computer and therefore anticipates an enterprise system]*

Identifying as target computers, each of the plurality of network computers that are used by the selected user; **(Lin Col. 3, Ln 50-67, “Once any necessary updates are made to central user preference database 2, server-side synchronization agent 6 identifies which local computer(s) 3 are to receive updated user preference information as a result of the service request (Step 130). Where, for example, the service request is a request from a particular local computer 3 for a download of the most-current user preference information, server-side synchronization agent 6 may transmit the appropriate information only to that local computer 3. On the other hand, where the service request necessitated an update to central user preference database 2, server-side synchronization agent 6 preferably transmits**

Art Unit: 2191

the updated user preference information to all of the computers associated with the userid in the service request.”)

[selecting and modifying each of] the plurality of network computers associated with the single user (130, 160, FIG. 2) **(Lin Col. 3, Ln 50-67, “Once any necessary updates are made to central user preference database 2, server-side synchronization agent 6 identifies which local computer(s) 3 are to receive updated user preference information as a result of the service request (Step 130). Where, for example, the service request is a request from a particular local computer 3 for a download of the most-current user preference information, server-side synchronization agent 6 may transmit the appropriate information only to that local computer 3. On the other hand, where the service request necessitated an update to central user preference database 2, server-side synchronization agent 6 preferably transmits the updated user preference information to all of the computers associated with the userid in the service request.”)** *[Lin teaches the use of this system in a work environment over a business's network of computer and therefore anticipates an enterprise system]*

In addition, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Aronberg with the user id tracking features of Lin as Lin provides a “repository computer [that] maintains central user ...information and transmits that information to a local computer” which provides portability of user information between computers of an enterprise system.

Aronberg further does not teach:

comparing the management information to existing scheduled policies to determine if one or more conflicts exist;

Hellerstein, however, teaches this limitation:

(¶73 “When a new policy dealing with the conditions under which a particular region can or cannot be considered as a target for software distribution is formulated, this process performs the steps by which such a policy is entered in to the policy repository. If, after obtaining a new policy definition (step 801), a conflict is detected with existing policies (step 802), the new policy is rejected (step 803). If not, the new policy is entered (step 804) into the policy repository. The process ends at block 805. Note that the criteria for rejection could be more complex, based on the nature of the enterprise where the software distribution is being implemented. This illustrative description does not address policy conflict resolution issues. Instead, it assumes that a process is in place to maintain the policy repository in a consistent state. Therefore, it is to be understood that any appropriate policy conflict resolution mechanism may be employed.”)

In addition, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Aronberg with the conflict identification of Hellerstein as Aronberg has a system that allows adding new conditions (i.e. policies) to old conditions, and Hellerstein teaches a similar system of adding new deployment

Art Unit: 2191

policies to old ones which includes a step to identify conflicts between the policies. It would be obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art further to resolve the conflicts identified by Hellerstein using the condition builder of Aronberg which allows the administrator to modify add and delete conditions because Hellerstein recognizes "any appropriate policy conflict resolution mechanism may be employed."

As for claim 91 Aronberg discloses:

A method for managing a plurality of computers associated with a user having a user characteristic comprising:

displaying to a network administrator resource information (**Col 2, Ln 1-8, " The present invention provides a sophisticated graphical condition expression builder to allow distributions based on any combination of several criteria, including user name, group membership, hard disk size, free disk space, and environment variables. Moreover, the present invention has the ability to vary an installation at distribution time based on any of the above criteria. WinInstall and Symantec do not."**)

receiving selection information from the network administrator the selection information

Art Unit: 2191

comprising a user characteristic associated with the user; (any combination of several criteria, Col. 2, lines 3-5, Col. 4, lines 62-67, and FIGs. 3-10)

allowing the network administrator to modify the management information to resolve the one or more conflicts, if the one or more conflicts exist; **(Aronberg Col. 6, Ln 20-37 “As shown in FIG. 9, the condition builder feature allows user at the console to control what conditions a particular agent must meet to pull down the application from the file server. The dialog box 901 permits the user to add a condition to the job, or modify an existing condition. The selected criteria 902 which make up the condition are shown in boxed area 902. The connector selection 903 allows the user to connect up criteria in the condition. The test button 904 permits evaluation of the condition and displays the results. The parenthesize feature 905 allows the user to selectively group criteria within the condition. The delete button 906 permits deletion of criteria from a condition. The else feature 907 permits the user to link the entire condition with the previous condition. The operation features 908 permit the user to modify the selected criteria. The entry field and lookup button 909 is used to modify the selected criteria.”)** *[Here, where Aronberg adds new conditions to previous conditions in the condition builder, the administrator can use the condition builder to resolve conflicts in conditions as detected as described Hellerstein below].*

receiving management information from the network administrator; (distribution control information, Col. 2, lines 54-57, Col. 2, line 66 to Col. 3, line 1 and Col. 3, lines 8-14

based on the selection information selecting each of the plurality of network computers that are associated with the single user (any combination of several criteria, Col. 2, lines 3-5, Col. 3, lines 8-14, Col. 4, lines 48-67, and FIGs. 3-10); and

modifying each of the plurality of network computers associated with the single user based on the management information; (Col. 3, lines 8-14 and FIGs. 3-10). and wherein selecting and modifying are performed when the user becomes newly associated with at least one of the target computers.

Aronberg does not disclose:

identifying a plurality of network computers that are used by a single user;

identifying as target computers each of the plurality of network computers that are used by the single user;

selecting and modifying are performed when the user becomes newly associated with at least one of the plurality of computers

However, these limitations are taught by Lin.

Art Unit: 2191

identifying a plurality of network computers that are used by a single user; (**Lin Col. 3, Ln 50-67, “Once any necessary updates are made to central user preference database 2, server-side synchronization agent 6 identifies which local computer(s) 3 are to receive updated user preference information as a result of the service request (Step 130). Where, for example, the service request is a request from a particular local computer 3 for a download of the most-current user preference information, server-side synchronization agent 6 may transmit the appropriate information only to that local computer 3. On the other hand, where the service request necessitated an update to central user preference database 2, server-side synchronization agent 6 preferably transmits the updated user preference information to all of the computers associated with the userid in the service request.”)**)

identifying as target computers each of the plurality of network computers that are used by the single user; (**Lin Col. 3, Ln 50-67, “Once any necessary updates are made to central user preference database 2, server-side synchronization agent 6 identifies which local computer(s) 3 are to receive updated user preference information as a result of the service request (Step 130). Where, for example, the service request is a request from a particular local computer 3 for a download of the most-current user preference information, server-side synchronization agent 6 may transmit the appropriate information only to that local computer 3. On the other hand, where the service request necessitated an update to central user preference**

database 2, server-side synchronization agent 6 preferably transmits the updated user preference information to all of the computers associated with the userid in the service request.”)

selecting and modifying are performed when the user becomes newly associated with at least one of the plurality of computers (Col. 4, Ln “Referring now to FIG. 3, processing begins in client-side synchronization agent 7 when a new user logs on to local computer 3 (Step 200). Where local computer 3 is accessible to multiple users, such as a computer in a development lab, it is desirable for client-side synchronization agent to include a security mechanism to ensure potentially-sensitive user preferences (or potentially-sensitive information accessible as a result of particular user preferences) are only available to authorized personnel. Accordingly, client-side synchronization agent 7 may require the new user to verify his or her authorization (Step 210). This may be done, for example, using an assigned userid or password, fingerprint matching or voiceprint matching. Client-side synchronization agent 7 may provide default user preference information to be used in the event the new user lacks appropriate authorization.”)

In addition, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Aronberg with the userid tracking features of Lin as Lin provides a “repository computer [that] maintains central user ...information

Art Unit: 2191

and transmits that information to a local computer” which provides portability of user information between computers of an enterprise system.

Aronberg further does not teach:

comparing the management information to existing scheduled policies to determine if one or more conflicts exist;

Hellerstein, however, teaches this limitation:

(¶73 “When a new policy dealing with the conditions under which a particular region can or cannot be considered as a target for software distribution is formulated, this process performs the steps by which such a policy is entered in to the policy repository. If, after obtaining a new policy definition (step 801), a conflict is detected with existing policies (step 802), the new policy is rejected (step 803). If not, the new policy is entered (step 804) into the policy repository. The process ends at block 805. Note that the criteria for rejection could be more complex, based on the nature of the enterprise where the software distribution is being implemented. This illustrative description does not address policy conflict resolution issues. Instead, it assumes that a process is in place to maintain the policy repository in a consistent state. Therefore, it is to be understood that any appropriate policy conflict resolution mechanism may be employed.”)

In addition, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Aronberg with the conflict identification of

Art Unit: 2191

Hellerstein as Aronberg has a system that allows adding new conditions (i.e. policies) to old conditions, and Hellerstein teaches a similar system of adding new deployment policies to old ones which includes a step to identify conflicts between the policies. It would be obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art further to resolve the conflicts identified by Hellerstein using the condition builder of Aronberg which allows the administrator to modify add and delete conditions because Hellerstein recognizes "any appropriate policy conflict resolution mechanism may be employed."

As for claim 92, Aronberg discloses:

selecting and modifying are performed when the user characteristic is one of changed and added (Col. 4, lines 62-67, Col. 3, lines 8-14, Col. 1, lines 41-45, and FIGs. 3-10; note that "the user at the administrator" selects which user associated with which computer should have a software).

As for claim 93 Aronberg discloses:

the user characteristic (user name, Col. 2, line 3 and FIGs. 6 and 9) is related to

Art Unit: 2191

- an employment function of the user (marketing group users, financial group users, engineering group users, Col. 5, lines 60-65).

As for claim 94 Aronberg discloses:

the user characteristic (user name, Col. 2, line 3 and FIGs. 6 and 9) is at least one of a user group and a geographic identifier (marketing group users, financial group

As for claims 95 Aronberg discloses:

the selection information further includes a computer characteristic (User [machine id], FIG. 9, Col. 2, lines 3-7, and Col. 3, lines 8-14), and the computer characteristic is related to a function of at least one of the plurality of computers (which computer, Col. 3, lines 8-10).

As for claim 96, Aronberg discloses:

the selection information further includes a computer characteristic (User [machine id], FIG. 9, Col. 2, lines 3-7, and Col. 3, lines 8-14), and the computer characteristic is at least one of a group (group of workstations, Col. 1, lines 40-44), a geographic identifier, and configuration information (customized configuration, Col. 2, lines 52-57 and Col. 1, lines 40-44).

Art Unit: 2191

As for claims 11, 33, 55, 77 and 97 Aronberg discloses:

modifying includes transmitting software to (which computer, Col. 3, lines 8-10) ... from a software database (the file server, Col. 3, lines 8-14 and Col. 6, lines 20-23), and installing the software on ...(Col. 3, lines 8-14).

While Lin further discloses:

the each of the target computers that are used by the selected user (e.g. Lin 130, FIG. 2)

As for claims 12, 34, 56, 78 and 98 Aronberg discloses:

the management information (distribution control information, Col. 2, lines 54-57, Col. 2, line 66 to Col. 3, line 1 and Col. 3, lines 8-14) includes a software identifier (the software, Col. 3, line 10 and FIG. 5) and an action (FIG. 5) to be performed on (which computer, Col. 3, lines 8-10).

While Line Discloses: each of the target computers that are used by the selected user(e.g. Lin 130, FIG. 2).

As for claims 13, 35, 57, 79 and 99 Aronberg discloses:

displaying the management information associated with the user (FIG. 3-6 and FIG. 9-10), wherein the management information includes at least one installation(the software, Col. 3, line 10 and FIG. 5) associated with the user (user name, Col. 2, line 3

Art Unit: 2191

and FIGs. 6 and 9), and at least one task (FIG. 5) associated with the user (user name, Col. 2, line 3 and FIGs. 6 and 9);

5. Claims 14-15, 17-19, 36-37, 39-41, 58-59, 61-63, 80-81, and 83-85, 100, 101, 103-104 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aronberg et al. (US Pat. #: 5,933,647), hereinafter "Aronberg" in view of Lin (US Patent 6,178,433) hereinafter Lin, further in view of U.S. PG Publication 2002/12936 Hellerstein et al hereinafter Hellerstein and further in view of Lubanski et al. (Mike Lubanski and Darshan Doshi, "SMS 2 Administration", SAMS, February 2000), hereinafter "Lubanski".

As for claims 14, 36, 58, 80 and 100 both Aronberg and Lin do not explicitly disclose: displaying information stored on at least one of the plurality of computers associated with the user.

However, Lubanski discloses:

displaying information stored on at least one of the plurality of computers associated with the user (browse the hardware and software inventory of a machine and the product-compliance details of software on machines, Chapter 2, Section: Explanation of Key Concepts of Windows NT, SQL, and SMS, Page 12 of 14, Lines 21- 22).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to combine the teachings of Aronberg and Lin with the teachings of Lubanski by

Art Unit: 2191

displaying information stored on at least one of the plurality of computers associated with the user in order to distribute and manage software as well as to track the software's usage (Lubanski, Chapter 1, Section: The Need for Desktop and Software Management, Page 3 of 4, Lines 34-35).

As for claims 15, 37, 59, 81 and 101 Aronberg does not explicitly disclose:

providing a link to information stored on at least one of the plurality of computers associated with the user.

However, Lubanski discloses:

providing a link to information stored on at least one of the plurality of computers associated with the user (Resource Explorer is used to browse the hardware and software inventory of a machine and the product-compliance details of software on 'machines, Chapter 2, Section: Explanation of Key Concepts of Windows NT, SQL, and SMS, Page 12 of 14, Line 21).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to combine the teachings of Aronberg and Lin with the teachings of Lubanski by providing a link to information stored on at least one of the plurality of computers associated with the user in order to distribute and manage software as well as to track the software's usage (Lubanski, Chapter 1, Section: The Need for Desktop and Software Management, Page 3 of 4, Lines 34-35).

Art Unit: 2191

As for claims 17, 39, 61 and 83 Aronberg does not explicitly disclose:

storing at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic in an external database.

However, Lubanski discloses:

storing at least one of a computer characteristic (Resource Domain, Chapter 2, Section: Explanation of Key Concepts of Windows NT, SQL, and SMS, Pages 2-3 of 14, Figure 2.2) and the user characteristic (Account Domain, Chapter 2, Section: Explanation of Key Concepts of Windows NT, SQL, and SMS, Pages 2-3 of 14, Figure 2.2) in an external database (SQL database) (SMS uses the SQL database as an engine and storage facility for its data, Chapter 2, Section: Explanation of Key Concepts of Windows NT, SQL, and SMS, Page 5 of 14, Line 6).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to combine the teachings of Aronberg and Lin with the teachings of Lubanski by storing at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic in an external database in order to provide the information necessary for SMS to perform its other functions, such as software distribution or remote control (Lubanski, Chapter 2, Section: Explanation of Key Concepts of Windows NT, SQL, and SMS, Page 5 of 14, Lines 9-10)

As for claims 18, 40, 62 and 84 and 103 Aronberg does not explicitly disclose:

interfacing with an external database including at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic.

Art Unit: 2191

However, Lubanski discloses:

interfacing with an external database including at least one of a computer characteristic (Resource Domain, Chapter 2, Section: Explanation of Key Concepts of Windows NT, SQL, and SMS, Pages 2-3 of 14, Figure 2.2) and the user characteristic (Account Domain, Chapter 2, Section: Explanation of Key Concepts of Windows NT, SQL, and SMS, Pages 2-3 of 14, Figure 2.2) (SMS uses the SQL database as an engine and storage facility for its data, Chapter 2, Section: Explanation of Key Concepts of Windows NT, SQL, and SMS, Page 5 of 14, Line 6).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to combine the teachings of Aronberg and Lin with the teachings of Lubanski by interfacing with an external database including at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic in order to provide the information necessary for SMS to perform its other functions, such as software distribution or remote control (Lubanski, Chapter 2, Section: Explanation of Key Concepts of Windows NT, SQL, and SMS, Page 5 of 14, Lines 9-10).

As for claims 19, 41, 63, 85 and 104 Aronberg does not explicitly disclose:

populating an external database including at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic with application data.

However, Lubanski discloses:

populating an external database (SQL database) including at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic with application data (Chapter 8, Section:

Art Unit: 2191

Discovery and Discovery Methods, Page 1 of 16, Lines 17-18, and Chapter 2, Section: Explanation of Key Concepts of Windows NT, SQL, and SMS, Page 12 of 14, Lines 1-5) (Note that SMS uses the SQL database as an engine and storage facility for its data, Chapter 2, Section: Explanation of Key Concepts of Windows NT, SQL, and SMS, Page 5 of 14, Line 6; all discovered resources are stored in SQL database).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to combine the teachings of Aronberg and Lin with the teachings of Lubanski by populating an external database including at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic with application data in order to provide the information necessary for SMS to perform its other functions, such as software distribution or remote control(Lubanski, Chapter 2, Section: Explanation of Key Concepts of Windows NT, SQL, and SMS, Page 5 of 14, Lines 9-10).

6. Claims 20, 42, 64, 86 and 105 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aronberg et al. (US Pat. #: 5,933,647), hereinafter "Aronberg" in view of Lin (US Patent 6,178,433) hereinafter Lin, further in view of U.S. PG Publication 2002/12936 Hellerstein et al hereinafter Hellerstein and further in view of Brovick et al. (Edgar Brovick, Doug Hauger, and William C. Wade III, 'M#indows 2000 Active Directory', SAMS, February 2000), hereinafter "Brovick".

45.

As for claims 20, 42, 64, 86 and 105, Aronberg does not explicitly disclose:

Art Unit: 2191

populating a target database with data from an external database, the data including at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic.

However, Brovick discloses:

populating a target database (DC) with data from an external database (DC) (replicate the directory data between the DCs, Chapter 10, Section: Replication, Page 1 of 8, Line 12), the data including at least one of a computer characteristic and the user characteristic (critical information about computer networks, users, and groups in a single data store, Chapter 2, Page 1 of 9, Line 39).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to combine the teachings of Aronberg and Lin with the teachings of Brovick by populating a target database with data from an external database in order to provide quick and efficient directory services to clients across the enterprise (Brovick, Chapter 10, Section: Replication, Page 1 of 8, Line 9).

7. Claims 16, 21, 38, 43, 60, 65, 82, 87 102 and 106 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aronberg et al. (US Pat. #: 5,933,647), hereinafter "Aronberg" in view of Lin (US Patent 6,178,433) and further in view of U.S. PG Publication 2002/12936 Hellerstein et al hereinafter Hellerstein hereinafter Lin and further in view of Davis et al. (US Pat. #: 5,742,829), hereinafter "Davis".

As for claims 16, 38, 60, and 82, Aronberg discloses:

modifying a computer (which computer, Col. 3, lines 8-10) based on the user

Art Unit: 2191

characteristic (user name, Col. 2, line 3 and FIGs. 6 and 9) that is one of stored in a database (the file server, Col. 3, lines 8-14 and Col. 6, lines 20-23).

However, both Aronberg and Lin do not explicitly disclose:

modifying a computer based on the user characteristic that is one of stored in a database and entered into the at least one selected computer by the user.

On the other hand, Davis discloses:

modifying a computer based on the user characteristic (the current user and user configuration information for the current user, Col. 12, Lines 40-41) that is one of stored in a database (SQL Server, FIG. 2) and entered into the at least one selected computer by the user (FIG. 4, FIG. 5A, and FIG. 5B, and the client setup executable 354 accesses the domain initialization file 356 to retrieve the program list ("the program list") to be loaded onto the client and utilizes the copy list 358 to load the software, Col. 9, Lines 8-11 ; note that "the client" here means "the local computer" with user characteristic).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to combine the teachings of Aronberg with the teachings of Davis by modifying a computer based on the user characteristic that is one of stored in a database and entered into the at least one selected computer by the user in order to install software from a master computer to a slave computer upon user initiation (Davis, Col. 1, lines 66-67).

Art Unit: 2191

As for claims 21,43, 65, 87 and 106 both Aronberg and Lin do not explicitly disclose: checking newly inputted management information against the management information for a conflict.

However, Davis discloses:

checking newly inputted management information against the management information for a conflict (if the program list differs from what is actually installed on a client, during the process of logging onto the client server, the preferred embodiment will make what is actually loaded on the client conform to the program list, Col. 9, Lines 21-23).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to combine the teachings of Aronberg with the teachings of Davis by checking newly inputted management information against the management information for a conflict in order to give the user total control over what events will take place (Aronberg, Col. 1, Lines 30-31).

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 5/20/2011 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In remarks, Applicant Argues:

Claims 1, 7-13, 23, 29-35, 45, 51-57, 67, 73-79, and 90-99 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,933,647 issued to Aronberg, et al. ("Aronberg") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,178,443 B1 issued to Lin ("Lin"), and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0129356 A1 in the name of Hellerstein, et al. ("Hellerstein"). Claims 14, 15, 17-19, 36, 37, 39-41, 58, 59, 61-63, 80, 81, 83-85, 100, 101, 103 and 104 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aronberg, in view of Lin, further in view of Hellerstein, and further in view of SMS 2 Administration in the name of Lubanski, et al. ("Lubanski"). Claims 16,

Art Unit: 2191

21, 38, 43, 60, 65, 82, 87, 102 and 106 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aronberg, in view of Lin, further in view of Hellerstein, and fm-ther in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,742,829 issued to Davis, et al. ("Davis"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claim 1 recites "displaying, to a network administrator, a user-object data structure comprising resource information identifying a plurality of network computers in an enterprise system that are used by a selected one of a plurality of users, the plurality of enterprise computers representing all of the network computers in the enterprise system that are used by the selected user." This limitation is not shown by the proposed combination of references. The Office Action concedes at page 6 that Aronberg fails to disclose this limitation and instead relies on Lin, but this is incorrect. Lin is completely devoid of any disclosure displaying to a network administrator a user-object data structure that comprises resource information identifying a plurality of network computers that are used by a selected one of a plurality of users, where the plurality of enterprise computers represents all of the network computers in the enterprise system that are used by the selected user. The Office Action points to Col. 3, lines 50-67 of Lin as allegedly disclosing this limitation, but this is incorrect. That portion of Lin states:

Once any necessary updates are made to central user preference database 2, server-side synchronization agent 6 identifies which local computer(s) 3 are to receive updated user preference information as a result of the service request (Step 130). Where, for example, the service request is a request from a particular local computer 3 for a download of the most- current user preference information, server-side synchronization agent 6 may transmit the appropriate information only to that local computer 3. On the other hand, where the service request necessitated an update to central user preference database 2, server-side synchronization agent 6 preferably transmits the updated user preference information to all of the computers associated with the userid in the service request.

Clearly, there is no disclosure in this recitation of Lin disclosing that the claimed data structure is displayed to a network administrator, nor is there any disclosure that a data structure displayed to a network administrator identifies all network computers in an enterprise system that are used by a selected user. For at least this reason, Claim 1 is allowable.

Even if Lin did disclose the above-identified limitation, which it does not, Claim 1 would nevertheless be allowable because one of skill in the art would not be motivated to modify Aronberg to display the claimed resource information identifying all network computers in the enterprise system that are used by a selected user. As described in previous Responses and not disputed by the Examiner (see, e.g. Office Action at 34), Aronberg is computer-centric. One would not modify the computer-centric system of Aronberg to display the claimed resource information regarding all computers used by a particular user, since that is antithetical to a computer-centric approach of Aronberg.

Art Unit: 2191

Thus, even if Lin did disclose the above-identified limitation, which it does not, the proposed modification would be nonsensical. Thus, the rejection is improper for this additional reason.

For at least these reasons, Claim 1 is allowable, as are the claims depending therefrom. For analogous reasons, independent Claims 23, 45, 67, 90, and 91 are allowable, as are the claims depending therefrom. Favorable action is requested.

Examiner's Response:

2. Examiner Respectfully disagrees. In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986). Here, applicant argues that Lin does not teach "displaying, to a network administrator, a user-object data structure comprising resource information identifying a plurality of network computers in an enterprise system that are used by a selected one of a plurality of users, the plurality of enterprise computers representing all of the network computers in the enterprise system that are used by the selected user." As stated in the rejection above and in the previous rejection, however, the examiner relies on Aronberg to teach the argued "displaying" element (Office Action of 1/20/2011, Page 4) and relies on Lin to teach "...that are used by a selected one of a plurality of users ...used by the selected user." Applicant's argument is therefore not persuasive as it does not consider the actual combination of references presented by the rejection, and instead argues against the Lin reference individually, including arguments about element for while Lin is not cited.

Art Unit: 2191

Further, The examiner maintains that one of skill in the art would be motivated to modify Aronberg's display with the userid tracking features of Lin as Lin provides a "repository computer [that] maintains central user ...information and transmits that information to a local computer" (Col. 1, Ln 35-46) which provides portability of user information between computers of an enterprise system.

In remarks, Applicant Argues:

Claim 91 is allowable also because the proposed combination of references fails to disclose "wherein selecting and modifying are preferred when the user becomes newly associated with at least one of the target computers." The Office Action relies on Lin to disclose this limitation, but that is incorrect. The cited portion of Lin discloses that "processing begins in client-side synchronization agent 7 when a new user logs on to local computer 3." (Lin, column 4, lines 44-46). If the user is logged in and authorization is verified, user preferences may be implemented in local computer 3." (Lin, column 4, lines 60-66) (emphasis added). However, after these preferences are implemented in the single local computer, the synchronization agent "may idle until the current user logs off of local computer 3." (Lin, column 5, lines 10-15). It is not until after this log off that user preferences may be implemented in any other computers associated with the user. (See Lin, column 5, lines 15-31). Therefore, Lin fails to disclose, teach, or suggest "modifying each of the plurality of network computers associated with the single user . . . wherein selecting and modifying are performed when the user becomes newly associated with at least one of the target computers." These same remarks were presented in Applicants' Response to the Office Action dated 10/15/2009, and the Examiner had no rebuttal. The Examiner did not dispute these remarks in the "Response to Arguments" section of the present Office Action, nor did the Examiner modify his rejection to present additional alleged teachings of Lin with respect to this limitation. Rather, the Examiner simply repeated the rejection verbatim that was shown to be so clearly wrong. That the Examiner had no rebuttal to such remarks further demonstrates that the rejection is improper. For at least these additional reasons, Claim 91 is allowable.

Examiner's Response:

Art Unit: 2191

Examiner Respectfully disagrees. Applicant's repeated argument fails to address the examiner's interpretation as described in the previous office action of 10/15/2009. This argument was previously addressed in the Examiner's 10/15/2009 office action, Page 27, In which the examiner stated:

Examiner respectfully disagrees. Applicant's argument that Lin does not teach wherein selecting and modifying are performed when the user becomes newly associated with at least one of the target computers" is not persuasive as the examiner is required to give the claims their broadest reasonable interpretation consistent with the specification. Phillips v. AWH Corp., 415 F.3d 1303, 75 USPQ2d 1321 (Fed. Cir. 2005). Specifically the claim term "when" is interpreted here in view of The dictionary definition, which includes, *inter alia*, "2 : in the event that : if" (Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary. <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/when> Retrieved Oct 6, 2009.) Therefore, as described by applicants explanation of Lin, the central database is updated after a log off, *when* the user becomes newly associated with a local computer in order to implement updates in other local computers (Lin, Cols. 4-5)

Examiner maintains this interpretation which applicant has yet to dispute.

Conclusion

1. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

Art Unit: 2191

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MATTHEW BROPHY whose telephone number is (571)270-1642. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8:00AM-5:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wei Zhen can be reached on (571) 272-3708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MJB

7/27/2011

Application/Control Number: 10/759,774
Art Unit: 2191

Page 38

/Anna Deng/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2191